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SOURCE

Hsin-wen Jih-pao.

## PAPER ANSWERS QUERY BY READER ON EXISTENCE OF FREEDOM OF PRESS IN CHINA

In its Questions and Answers column, the 23 June 1952 issue of the Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao carried the following query about the existence of freedom of the press in postliberation China presumably submitted by one Chang Shao ch'i of the T'ung-mei Company:

"There are some who say that prior to liberation, newspapers presented 'varied arguments and advocated different viewpoints,' but newspapers now are all of 'one color.' It is evident that there was freedom of the press prior to the liberation but none after the liberation. How can such talk be refuted?"

The answer is typical of the Communist rationale:

"Before the liberation, newspapers that had 'the right of survival' were all reactionary papers representing the various reactionary factions. There were constant struggles and conflicts among these factions resulting in slanderous attacks based on 'varied arguments and viewpoints.' Were these 'varied arguments and viewpoints' those of the people? They were not. Those newspapers which dared to express the words and the convictions of the people were all persecuted, even to being closed down. From this, it may be seen that 'freedom of the press' prior to the liberation was the 'freedom of the press' of the reactionary controlled class. The right of the people to freedom of speech and press was snatched away

"In the New China, the newspapers are all of 'one color' -- they are the people's newspapers. The people are united politically; there is agreement on the interests and opinions of the people. Thus, there will not be 'varied arguments and viewpoints' in newspapers. The people have but one purpose: the building of a New China and the struggle to attain socialism. In the people's

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newspapers, there is no malicious slandering and attacking, but the airing of well-intentioned criticism and self-criticism. It is thus evident that in the New China, there is complete freedom of the press. Of course newspapers like nose in the past, which loudly proclaimed 'arguments and viewpoints' opposed to the people, are not permitted to exist. But this fact proves that in the New China only the reactionaires do not have freedom of the press. What is wrong with that?"

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